

2020

AmeriCorps Texas

ALL GRANTEE MEETING



AGENDA & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Austin ★ Texas

February 25-26, 2020

PRESENTED BY



onestar
foundation

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Welcome & Icebreaker [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

◆ *Jaclyn Kolar & Taylor Wolter / OneStar Foundation*

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

PLENARY SESSION 1

Strengthening the Member Experience [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

◆ *Facilitated by Pat Guzmán-Weema / OneStar Foundation*

◆ *Jamey Applegate / City Year*

◆ *Tasha Moore / Communities In Schools of North Texas*

◆ *Lacey Pittman Tomanek / Teach For America*

The member experience is vital for the success of all AmeriCorps programs. In this session, participants will hear from their peers about key strategies to engage members and enhance their overall experience. Programs will share best practices around creating a strong identity within the corps, site-supervisor support, and alumni engagement.

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1

Recruitment Planning [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

◆ *Cristina Flores / OneStar Foundation*

In this session, we will discuss how to create and shape a full-cycle Recruitment Plan. Understanding that programs have different capacities and program designs, we will be diving deeper into recruitment plan strategies that can be applied to every program including: converting leads to members, diversifying your corps, retention, and growing and strengthening referrals.

Policies & Procedures [AZALEA/BLUEBONNET]

◆ *Pat Guzmán-Weema / OneStar Foundation*

Having organizational policies and procedures that govern your AmeriCorps program can ensure compliance with grant requirements and ensure consistency during times of transition. In this session, participants will learn about when they should have policies and procedures in place, why they should have them and how they should be used. Prior to attending the session, please discuss with your colleagues what policies and procedures your team has in place, which need to be revised, and which need to be created.

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

LUNCH & LEARN

25 Years & Beyond [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

◆ *Chris Bugbee / OneStar Foundation*

◆ *Dr. Steve Murdock / Rice University, Hobby Center for the Study of Texas*

During this lunch session, we will hear from former State Demographer of Texas, Dr. Murdock, regarding population trends in Texas and the projected impacts on social issues, such as health and education. OneStar's CEO Chris Bugbee will provide remarks on the vision for national service in the changing landscape of Texas.



1:45 PM - 3:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2**Member Retention Strategies** [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

- ◆ Abby Fleiss & Angela Pinckard-Hale / OneStar Foundation
- ◆ Jessica Engelke & Candace Hernandez / Communities in Schools Central Texas
- ◆ Gabriela Garcia-De Avila & Logan Marconette / Literacy First

This session will cover a framework for engaging and retaining members in service. We will discuss strategies and learn best practices from Literacy First and Communities in Schools of Central Texas. Participants will walk away with tangible ideas for improving your program's member retention.

Demonstrating Impact: CNCS Program Evaluation Plan & Report Guidelines [AZALEA/BLUEBONNET]

- ◆ Erin Brackney Kremkus / OneStar Foundation

In this session, participants will review the Corporation for National and Community Service's guidelines related to evaluation plans and reports. The session will also include an overview of common challenges faced by grantees in the evaluation planning and reporting process.

Program Budget and De-Obligation [LANTANA]

- ◆ Mary Voorhies & Betty Jo Schafer / OneStar Foundation

Join us for a session about program budgets and de-obligation geared towards program staff. We will talk about why asset utilization is important, cover budget to actual basics, learn how to project year-end totals, discuss reallocations, and review de-obligation calculations.

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

Break

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

PLENARY SESSION 2**Preparing for National Service Recognition Day: Engaging Elected Officials & Collaborating Regionally** [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

- ◆ Mary Grace Landrum & Jaclyn Kolar / OneStar Foundation
- ◆ Mary Ellen Issacs / Literacy First
- ◆ Elizabeth VanOort / CitySquare

In this session we will cover best practices and ideas on how to educate your elected officials about the great work of your program. We will focus on how to plan meaningful events and engagement opportunities in advance of the National Service Recognition Day. Presenters from ServeAustin and North Texas National Service Alliance will share best practices for collaborating regionally with national service partners.

5:00 PM - 5:15 PM

Wrap Up [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

- ◆ Jaclyn Kolar & Taylor Wolter / OneStar Foundation

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Networking Mixer [AZALEA/BLUEBONNET]

Join us for an evening of networking with AmeriCorps program staff, OneStar staff, and OneStar board members. Enjoy complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and one drink ticket, with cash bar also available.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

PLENARY SESSION 3

The 25th Year: Updates & Town Hall [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

◆ *Jaclyn Kolar / OneStar Foundation*

OneStar will provide an overview of trends within the portfolio and updates on current changes within the national service field. We will cover updates on CNCS's Transformation and Sustainability Plan, including information on the new regional office, rebranding initiatives, and other progress updates. This will be followed by a Town Hall, in which participants are invited to ask questions of the OneStar team.

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

Break

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3

Member File Review [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]

◆ *Abby Fleiss, Cristina Flores & Angela Pinckard-Hale / OneStar Foundation*

Learn how OneStar utilizes risk-assessment to determine the files selected for programmatic desk-based monitoring. We will share OneStar's updated File Review tool, share best practices for internal auditing and review some of the most common findings. Participants will create a customized plan to improve internal file auditing and minimize findings.

Preventing Burnout and Self Care [LANTANA]

◆ *Betty Jo Schafer / OneStar Foundation*

Burnout (also known as compassion fatigue) continues to challenge retention for both AmeriCorps members and non-profit employees. In this session, we will explore what burnout is and how we can use a self-care plan as a method for prevention. This session will be structured as a "train the trainer" session so that programs can receive the resources necessary to feel empowered to tackle this subject with members.

Detecting & Preventing Fraud [AZALEA/BLUEBONNET]

◆ *Pat Guzmán-Weema & Mary Voorhies / OneStar Foundation*

In this session we will cover the basic concepts of fraud, such as the fraud triangle and risk assessments. Then we will move on to case studies of fraud discovered at AmeriCorps programs, during which we will discuss what happened, by whom, how it was detected and how it could have been prevented.



11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch - on your own

1:00 PM - 1:45 PM

PLENARY SESSION 4**Purposeful Engagement: Details on OneStar's Evaluation** [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]◆ *Jessamyn Luiz / Dialogues in Action*

Participants will hear from external evaluator, Dialogues in Action, on OneStar's current evaluation on our effectiveness as a state service commission. Dialogues in Action will provide an overview of the evaluation, the methodology used, and explain grantees' role in the evaluation process.

1:45 PM - 3:15 PM

PLENARY SESSION 5**Resource Recap** [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]◆ *Pat Guzmán-Weema / OneStar Foundation*

During the last year, AmeriCorps Texas staff have updated and created resources to provide clarity and support around the ever-changing landscape of AmeriCorps grant administration. With these resources, programs can feel more confident in their understanding of applicable grant requirements and develop systems to ensure compliance. Pat Guzmán-Weema will provide a review of available resources, how to best navigate finding resources on the OneStar and CNCS websites, and insight on the new resources planned for development.

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

Wrap Up [SUNFLOWER/MARIGOLD]◆ *Jaclyn Kolar & Taylor Wolter / OneStar Foundation*

NOTES

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MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Abby Fleiss is a Program Officer at OneStar Foundation on the AmeriCorps Texas team, where she oversees monitoring activities, leads trainings and technical support, and helps grantees improve internal compliance and program implementation. She also works with planning grants in program design and performance measure development as they explore the feasibility of applying for AmeriCorps funding. Abby previously launched two AmeriCorps programs from planning grant to operational grants, and she most recently spent 7 years at Breakthrough Central Texas, a college access and success organization and current OneStar grantee.



Angela Pinckard-Hale brings twenty years' experience with AmeriCorps to her current role as Program Officer with One Star Foundation. From her previous work as Program Director and Program Officer with the Arkansas Service Commission, Angela has trained program staff on performance measures, data collection, member recruitment/retention, building compliant processes, and being an effective manager. She helped create and establish DeltaCorps, an eight-state National AmeriCorps program that served as a rural intermediary, and trained nonprofit organizations in building robust, compliant programming to meet needs in communities.



Betty Jo Schafer is a Grants Officer at OneStar Foundation on the AmeriCorps Texas team, where she provides fiscal compliance monitoring, oversight, training, and support to half of the AmeriCorps Texas portfolio. Prior to that she was the Grants Coordinator and MSSW Fellow at OneStar. As Licensed Master Social Worker, Betty Jo also serves as the Inclusion lead on the AmeriCorps Texas team and provides training and support surrounding relevant social work topics.



Candace Hernandez is the AmeriCorps Member Experience Specialist at Communities in Schools of Central Texas, where she designs and implements strategies for cultivating positive and rewarding experiences for AmeriCorps members and site supervisors. She ensures members have the support and access to resources they need to successfully complete their term of service. Candace has more than 13 years of experience working with children and families and supervising and supporting staff and practicum students, and she holds master's degrees in social work and child development.



Chris Bugbee is President & CEO of OneStar Foundation. Chris previously served as OneStar's Chief Operating Officer and oversaw key programmatic initiatives, including AmeriCorps Texas, AmeriCorps VISTA, Disaster Services, and the Rebuild Texas Fund, and led the implementation of the Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative. Before joining OneStar, Chris served as Deputy Director of the Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Associate Director in the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the White House, and Senior Intergovernmental Officer for the U.S. Secretary of Labor.



Cristina Flores is a Program Officer at OneStar Foundation on the AmeriCorps Texas team, where she supports grantees in compliance and member support and communicates grant requirements to help nonprofits across Texas utilize federal resources. She previously worked as the Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator at Literacy First, where she was responsible for conducting targeted outreach, leading retention initiatives, social media marketing, interviewing, and member onboarding. She has completed training by AIRS as a certified Diversity & Inclusion Recruiter.



Erin Brackney Kremkus consults with OneStar Foundation to provide guidance, coaching, and technical assistance related to program evaluation for OneStar programs and initiatives, including AmeriCorps Texas. She previously worked as Director of Research and Evaluation at OneStar and led the development of the Texas Connector online mapping tool. Erin holds master's degree in social work from University of Michigan specializing in policy and evaluation.



Gabriela Garcia-De Avila is the AmeriCorps Operations Manager at Literacy First, where she is responsible for logistics, operations, and compliance for the AmeriCorps program. She offers support and training to program staff and the AmeriCorps tutors and oversees the annual recruitment of members. She also coordinates the partnerships between Literacy First and the Austin community, summer school placements, and civic reflection. Gabriela is an AmeriCorps alum and also previously served as Senior Bilingual Program Coordinator and developed trainings and curriculum for the program.



Jaclyn Kolar is the Director of National Service at OneStar Foundation, where she oversees the AmeriCorps Texas grant portfolio and VISTA Intermediary Project. She provides strategic direction for national service resources and leverages partnerships to strengthen the field of national service in Texas. Jaclyn has held prior roles of Manager of AmeriCorps Texas and Program Officer at OneStar, and she also worked at Travis County 4-H CAPITAL AmeriCorps Project, a OneStar grantee. She is a two-time AmeriCorps alum and previously served as a VISTA at Linking Learning to Life, and then as a VISTA Leader supporting disaster recovery in Texas.



Jamey Applegate is the Managing Director of Impact at City Year Dallas, where he drives organizational vision and manages relationships with AmeriCorps and the local school district. He oversees the implementation of City Year's service model on campuses, which includes staffing, partnerships, compliance and reporting, and AmeriCorps member experience. Jamey previously served as a Peace Corps teacher and trainer volunteer in Nicaragua and as an AmeriCorps member with City Year Los Angeles. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work from Indiana University.



MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Jessamyn Luiz is an Associate Consultant at Dialogues in Action, where she helps create high-impact organizations where people can thrive. Jessamyn previously served as a Program Officer with Oregon Volunteers, the state service commission. She also led efforts to build systems for Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc., a national AmeriCorps program focused on early childhood education, and led the turnaround of defunded Head Start programs with Acelero Learning. She also previously served as the Director of Education for the Pueblo of Tesuque tribal government in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Jessi Engelke is the AmeriCorps Program Director for Communities In Schools of Central Texas, where she oversees a team of four staff, supporting between 80-90 AmeriCorps members annually. From the initial application to a member's alumni status, Jessi supports her team to ensure overall program compliance and excellence. Jessi has more than seven years of combined experience in the national service field, as both an AmeriCorps member and staff.



Lacey Pittman Tomanek is the Vice President of Alumni Program at Teach For America DFW, where she strengthens and deepens alumni impact by supporting the individual and collective leadership, relationships, and learning of those in the Teach For America network throughout their lifetimes. The Alumni Program team works locally to empower values-aligned alumni to ascend to influential leadership positions and to channel alumni leadership toward the biggest barriers to educational equity. Lacey previously served as a Teach For America corps member in Louisiana, where she taught high school English.



Logan Marconette is the Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator at Literacy First, where he manages and executes the recruitment operational plan and oversees the AmeriCorps tutor application and onboarding lifecycle. He also builds relationships with local outreach and community partners. Logan previously served as an AmeriCorps member and leader with Literacy First for two years and continued to support recruitment and operations for the program after his service ended. He holds a bachelor's degree in Nutrition & Health from Kansas State University.



Mary Grace Landrum is the principal of Landrum & Associates, a leadership and team building consultancy, and serves as a OneStar National Service State Commissioner. She has chaired the Program Advisory Committee since 2015 and serves as the chair of the new Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, which makes public policy education, advocacy and lobbying recommendations to the OneStar boards. Mary Grace was chosen Service Commissioner of the Year in 2019 by America's Service Commissions. She has served as an elected trustee of Spring Branch ISD for 6 years and was elected legislative liaison to the Texas Association of School Boards.



Mary Voorhies, MBA, CFE, is the Senior Grants Officer at OneStar Foundation, where she provides fiscal guidance to the AmeriCorps Texas portfolio. This includes assessing financial systems and making recommendations when improvements are needed. During monitoring visits, she participates in member and site supervisor interviews to ensure program compliance. Mary is a two-time AmeriCorps alum and previously served with the National Civilian Community Corps and Austin Habitat for Humanity.



Pat Guzmán-Weema is Manager of AmeriCorps Texas at OneStar Foundation, where she leads a team of Program and Grants Officers and provides oversight and support for AmeriCorps programs. She previously worked at The Pro Bono Project in New Orleans as a Staff Attorney, managing a medical-legal partnership combating health-harming social conditions. Pat also served as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, representing low-income tenants with legal housing issues. She received her JD from Tulane University Law School, and her BA from the University of Notre Dame.



Dr. Steve Murdock is the founding Director of the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas and the Chair in Sociology at Rice University. He is the former Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, The State Demographer of Texas, holder of a Regents Chair at Texas A&M University, Distinguished Chair in Demography & Organization Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a noted scholar with 14 books and more than 150 articles and analytical reports. He has extensive experience in research on a variety of issues impacting Texas and is known as a national expert in the areas of demography, rural sociology and socioeconomic impact assessment.



Tasha Moore is the Chief Strategy Officer for Communities In Schools of North Texas, where she implements strategic vision for the agency that focuses on effective programming, ensuring a healthy and supportive organizational climate for staff, and building new partnerships. Tasha has 12 years of experience working with at-risk youth and holds a master's degree in social work. She is also an AmeriCorps alum.



Taylor Wolter is the Outreach Officer at OneStar Foundation, where he develops new AmeriCorps programs in Texas and is the lead for training and disaster services for the AmeriCorps Texas portfolio. He is a two-time AmeriCorps alum with a background in disaster management and environmental conservation and served with the Texas Conservation Corps for many years as both an AmeriCorps member and staff. In the days after Hurricane Harvey, Taylor served as a federal task force leader for Volunteer and Donations Management related to the disaster.

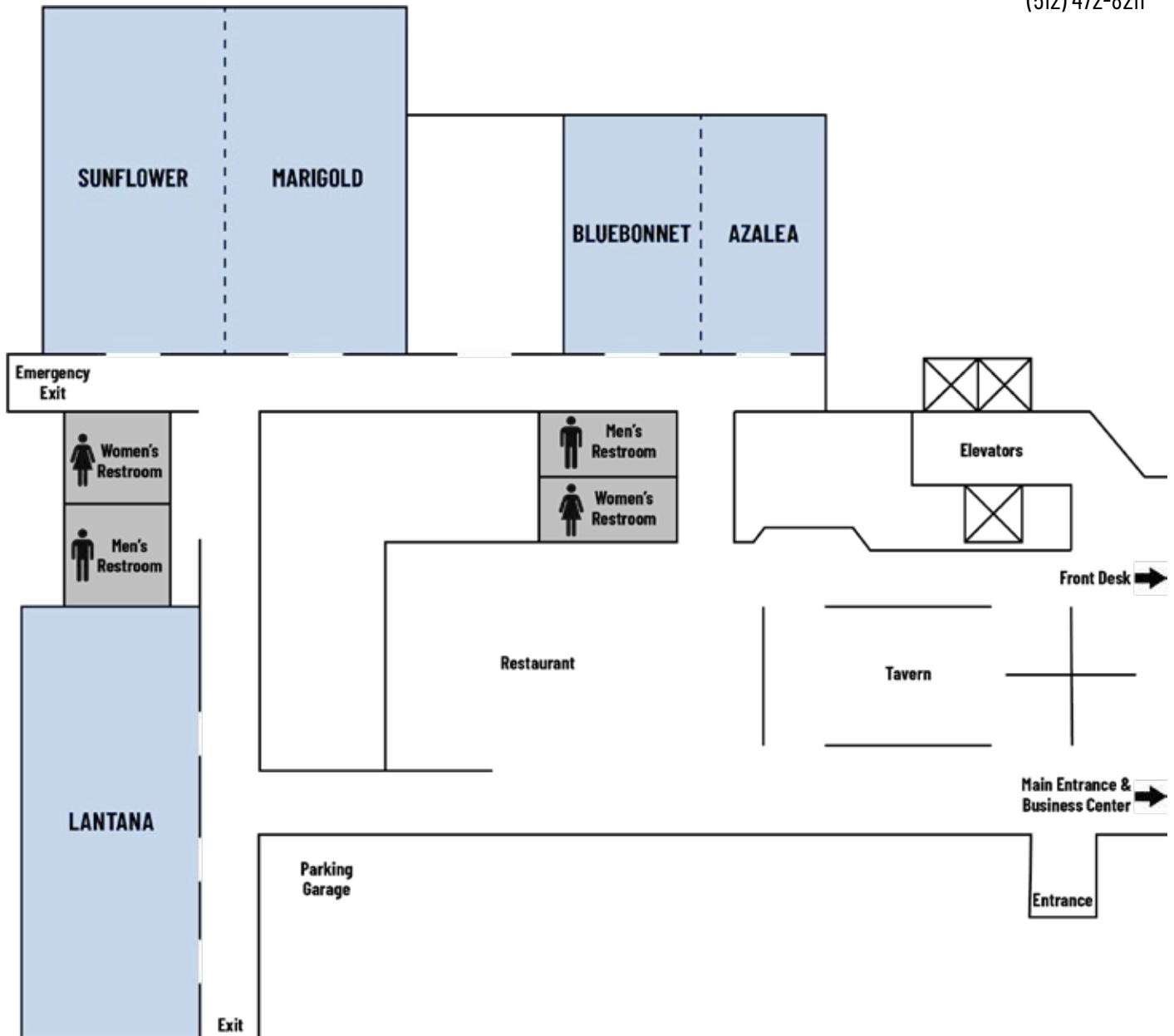


VENUE MAP

HOLIDAY INN AUSTIN-TOWN LAKE

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2020 AmeriCorps Texas All Grantee Meeting!

#AmeriCorpsTX
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